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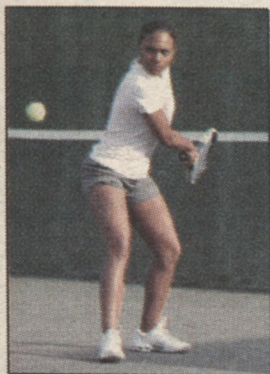
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Prairie View A&M University

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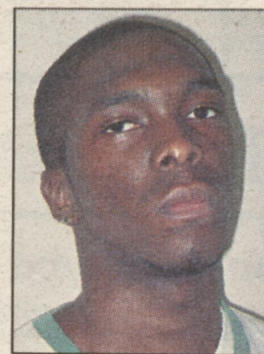


Grambling falls to Prairie View, page 10

THE PANTHER

"Something inside so strong..."

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



Who is this rapper Lil' L, page 14

Students spend an evening with Julian Bond

By Jameka Merriweather
Panther Staff

The chairman of the board of the NAACP, Julian Bond, delivered a special treat on Wednesday, March 1, in the Memorial Student Center auditorium.

Jennifer Russell, president of the Prairie View chapter of the NAACP, described Bond as "the epitome of excellence." As a prominent figure in the civil rights movement, not only did he march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but also he was a founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He served in both the Georgia House of Representatives and the Senate.

In his dynamic speech, Bond spoke of his experience with the late King. He jokingly told the audience one day he spoke with King, and King told him he had a nightmare. However, Bond told him, "No, you have a dream."

Although, Bond joked with the crowd he had a very serious and inspiring message. Fo-

cused on the modern race problems in America, Bond stated, "If you scramble the words in America, it spells I AM RACE."

He spoke of the lack of compassion and secrecy that is intertwined through the Bush administration and criticized them for the true reasons of the war in Iraq. "The war on Iraq has as much to do with terrorism as our administration has to do with compassion," he said. He discussed the allegations of conspiracy and spying by the current administration on law-abiding citizens.

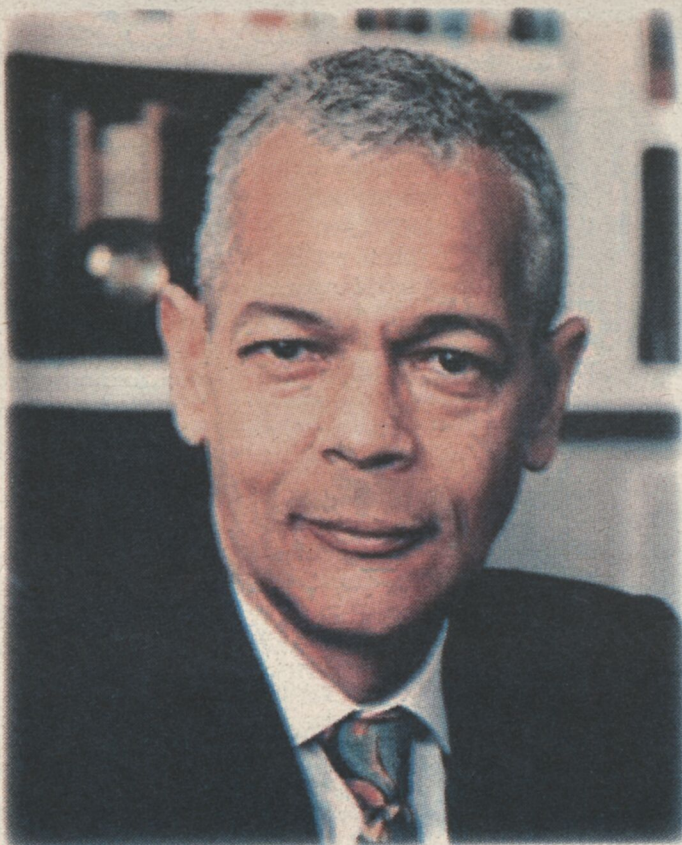
He compared the current administration with the Clinton administration. "If Clinton's

Achilles heel was sex, then our current administration's Achilles heel is secrecy."

In closing, he challenged the audience to include everyone in the modern fight for equality meaning blacks, whites, yellows, and reds. "There is much more yet to be done. It's not easy work but we have never wished our way to freedom, we have worked," he asserted. Bond emphasized that minorities such as Latinos and African Americans must join together and defeat the race issues in America.

Students were truly inspired by Bond. "Bond inspired me to get more active in the political field and to gain interest in African Americans' position in politics," said freshman computer engineering major James Parker.

"Mr. Bond inspired but also reminded African Americans of the intense fight in the days of white supremacy. Yet, the fight is not over," junior communications major Yonne Bellamy said. "His speech reminded me of the great impact of the black struggle toward freedom."



A living legend: Julian Bond, a leader in the Civil Rights movement who also serves as chairman of the NAACP, delivered a powerful speech to Panthers about his past, the present state of the country, and the need for blacks and Latinos to unify to tackle race issues.



Photo by Evan White

Hard to beat: The Panther pitching staff has struck out a phenomenal 86 batters this season in only 18 games.

Panthers rank number one in black college baseball

By Rashad H. Morgan
Sports Editor

The Prairie View A&M University Panther baseball team has recently been ranked number one by the Black College Baseball Poll. Jackson State previously held the number one position, but after losing five games in a two week span the Tigers fell to number four. The Panthers two-game victory over Texas Southern is what pushed them to the number one ranking.

The BCB poll is released bi-weekly and features the top black college baseball programs, coaches, and players.

Prairie View is off to its best start within the past few years, their undefeated home record (11-0) is the best in the conference. This is one of the many accolades to dwindle down on the Panthers after having a respectable 2005 season. Most recently sophomore pitcher

Wrandal Taylor, junior pitcher Matthew Chase and senior outfielder Anton Daley were selected to the SWAC preseason first team. Taylor is currently 3-0.

Juniors Eugene Edwards and Michael Richard lead the team in home runs with three each. Miami native Calvin Lester leads the team in stolen bases (27) and runs scored with a total of 25. Not too far behind was Edwards, who touched home plate 24 times.

The Panthers recently defeated the Arkansas Pine Bluff Golden Lions (1-4, 3-8) in a three game sweep over the past weekend. The Golden Lions are second conference opponents to be slaughtered by the Panthers.

Prairie View's next opponent will be the Grambling State Tigers. This will be a two game series on Saturday and Sunday. Grambling currently has a losing record of 3-5, which includes a 1-6 loss to Arkansas Pine Bluff.

In the news...

Long-delayed home demolitions begin in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The slow and emotional job of demolishing homes wrecked beyond repair by Hurricane Katrina began Monday, a key step in the cleanup process that could also lead to the discovery of more bodies.

Three homes were torn down — the first of 118 planned — in three of the worst-hit neighborhoods, where flood waters lifted buildings off their foundations and blocked streets or other rights of way.

Activists had sued in December to stop the bulldozing out of fear homeowners wouldn't be notified or have a chance to pick through their belongings. City officials agreed in January to a notification process, saying they wanted to quickly tear down only homes that posed an imminent threat to safety.

Herbert Warren Jr. stopped by to watch an excavator scoop out the innards of the small wood-frame home he purchased in 1962 and raised eight children in. The structure had landed one street over from its foundation, behind a brick Baptist church.

"The thing is, we thought we had it made, and then this!" said the 77-year-old retired longshoreman. With no plans to rebuild on the land where he lived for much of his adult life, Warren, who evacuated with his wife to Houston, said he was uncertain about what he will do.

Dogs trained to find bodies will search the sites before demolition begins and as houses are disassembled.

Car crashes into house, killing couple in bed

MISSOURI CITY, Texas (AP) — A couple died in their bed when a car crashed into the master bedroom of their home early Monday.

Missouri City police Capt. Sal Salinas said the car's driver lost control and slammed through a fence and into the house. Jose Castorena, 61, and his wife Zenaida Castorena, 64, died.

Police said the couple's 36-year-old son and two grandchildren were also in the house but were not injured. The car's 24-year-old driver, Manuel Trinidad Chicas, who lives in the same neighborhood, attempted to run away but was apprehended. He faces two intoxication manslaughter charges.

The crash remains under investigation.

Government wants to tell consumers where recalled food was sold

WASHINGTON (AP) — Food recall announcements would name the supermarkets where potentially tainted food was sold, under a new Agriculture Department proposal.

The department alerts consumers to recalls involving meat and poultry, but retail outlets currently are not disclosed. A rule proposed Monday would disclose the information.

The proposal "will help consumers more easily determine if they purchased recalled product," said Richard Raymond, the department's under secretary for food safety.

Alerts are posted on the Food Safety and Inspection Service Web site and are sent to the news media. The notice includes the name of the company recalling the food, the reason for the recall, a description of the food and any codes used on food packages, among other information.

Critics of the department praised the idea.

"There are such serious health implications when you have a recall," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn. "Consumers ought to be able to know what the retail outlets are that are affected by this recall."

The department is accepting comments on the proposal through May 6 and has no timeline for adopting the proposal.

Levee break in Sonoma County floods highway

SHELLVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A levee in Sonoma County broke early Monday, flooding part of a highway and threatening a half-dozen homes and a winery, the California Highway Patrol said.

Heavy weekend rains weakened the banks along Sonoma Creek, according to the National Weather Service, which issued a flash flood warning.

The levee that broke is on private property about seven miles south of the city of Sonoma, CHP Officer Gerald Rico said. The break flooded the property owner's vineyard and threatened about six other homes and a vineyard about a half-mile south of the site, Rico said. It was unclear how long state Highway 121 would remain closed.

STATE & NATION

EDITED BY NNEKA MEKA NNEKA@PIAMU.EDU

Bush travels to vote in Texas primary

President Bush travels 1,500 miles to vote in Texas Republican primary



Photo courtesy AP

Homecoming: President Bush emerges from the Crawford Fire Station after voting in the Texas primary election Tuesday, March 7, 2006 in Crawford, Texas.

Nedra Pickler
Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush didn't take his responsibility to vote in the Texas Republican primary on Tuesday lightly. He took a nearly 1,500-mile trip from Washington to vote in person.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan wouldn't say whether Bush had to make the trip because he wanted to vote in person or, as some suspect, because aides forgot to get him an absentee ballot.

But the trip put the president closer to the Gulf Coast, where he planned to get a look at rebuilding in New Orleans and Gulfport, Miss., on Wednesday in his 10th trip to the region since Hurricane Katrina hit.

"It happens to work out well to go ahead and vote in person," McClellan told reporters.

The president and Mrs. Bush voted Tuesday afternoon at a polling station set up at the volunteer fire department in Crawford. The election includes a contested congressional seat in Bush's district.

"It's always good to come home to vote," Bush said after casting his ballot. "And I urge all people to vote when given the chance."

The Bushes then went to their nearby ranch to spend the night.

Bush planned to fly early Wednesday

to New Orleans, where questions have recently been raised about whether residents who have returned to the city will be protected if another storm hits this year.

Two teams of independent experts have said the Army Corps of Engineers has been taking shortcuts to rebuild the levees quickly and using substandard materials that could leave large sections of the system substantially weaker than before the hurricane.

The Army Corps strongly denies the allegations. Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, head of the Army Corps, told Bush in a private briefing Monday that the Corps is on track to meet the president's goal of restoring the levees to pre-Katrina conditions by the start of the hurricane season.

But he acknowledged that the levees will not be able to protect low-lying areas if there is another Katrina-like storm this year. He said he is confident that there would not be the catastrophic impact that the city experienced with Katrina, though.

McClellan said improvements to make the levees stronger will be made over the next two to three years. He downplayed Strock's admission that there would still be flooding.

"Let's keep in mind, when you have hurricanes, I don't know of instances when there is not flooding," McClellan said. "So I think that is stating something that could be fairly obvious."

CAMPUS

EDITED BY ALANNA JONES ALANNES7@PIAMU.EDU

Miss Winston-Salem State forced to step down

By Lisa R. Boone
Black College Wire

Miss Winston-Salem State University has been stripped of her title because her grade-point average dropped below 2.5.

Tiffany Richmond, 22, a senior mass communications major, is not alone: Thirteen students who held key titles or positions on campus were told to vacate their posts.

"After the official posting of semester grades, the Office of Student Activities verified all the grade-point averages of the Student Govern-

the school's history that a Miss Winston-Salem State University had been stripped of her title. The school was founded in 1892.

Robinson said she wants students to accept her not as a replacement, but as a role model who felt humbled to step into the position.

"I hope students do not put emphasis on this specific situation," Robinson said. "I would prefer that students understand that this situation merely illustrates that academic performance is the first priority of student leaders at WSSU."

"Leading by example is not the best way, it is the only way," she added.



Photo credit Winston-Salem State University

Richmond, who won election to the position last spring, said she was informed that she had to relinquish the title on Jan. 8.

"I am still in school, I will still graduate on May 6, and I am looking forward to the rest of the school year like everyone else," Richmond said.

"I understand now that you don't necessarily need a title to be a student

leader... I am grateful because no matter what, when I graduate from State, I will know how to handle different obstacles I will face."

"According to the SGA constitution, all members of the executive committee must maintain a 2.5 grade-point average. All students who did not meet the qualifications, we asked to step down and select a replacement immediately."

"There were many students that did not meet the qualifications," Pierce added, "but Miss WSSU is such a public position that it seemed to many students that she may have been singled out. She was not."

Stephanie Robinson, a 21-year-old psychology major, replaced Richmond as Miss Winston-Salem State.

It was the first time in

Congratulations to all PVAMU chapter Greek organizations that participated in the Greek Olympiad

1st Place Winners: Zeta Gamma chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

&
Eta Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

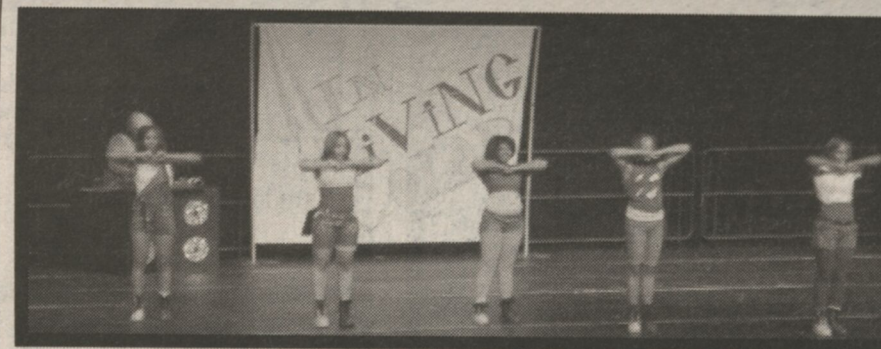


Photos by David Butler

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THE
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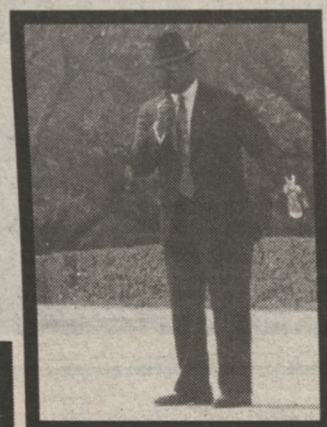
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PV pays tribute to Corretta Scott King and Rosa Parks



Event held by the Zeta Gamma chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

SGA teaches students about the political process

By Sean Mitchell
Panther Staff

The Student Government Association held a seminar Monday, March 6, entitled the "Primary Political Process." The program, which was conducted by SGA president Oludayo Olusanya and SGA vice president Courtney Smith, featured a panel that included Dr. Michael Nojeim and Prairie View government relations officer Frank Jackson. The aim of the seminar was to inform Prairie View students of what the panelists felt was the political power they held.

"It was important to do this program so that we educate students on the amount of political power

they have in this county," said Olusanya during the opening of the program.

In a later interview, Olusanya said: "I think it started a discourse among the students and will lead to a lot of positive actions."

After a prayer by Johnnie Jones III, Nojeim was introduced as the speaker. He quickly challenged students to get up and take action, stating that "voting is your duty" to the student filled audience. He also added that "if [they] do not constantly nurture this responsibility, then power, rights and duty slips away."

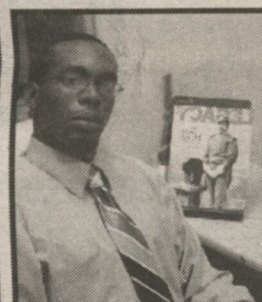
Next, Jackson came to the podium and filled in the audience on historical lessons concerning African-American voting rights as well as po-

litical power (or lack thereof) that African-Americans have possessed. He also encouraged students not only to vote, but to get involved in the political process. Additionally, he explained why the position of president was powerful at Prairie View and ultimately who gave the president so much power.

"Only the student body can give power to the powerful position of president at Prairie View," said Jackson.

Following the speech, the audience was allowed to participate in a question and answer session, in which they asked the panelists any question they felt to be important and the program concluded shortly thereafter.

SGA speaks out



SGA President
Oludayo Olusanya

Students, on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at 7 p.m. in the MSC auditorium, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, a prominent professor, author, and hip hop intellectual will be a guest speaker on campus. Make sure you are part of the conversation with this nationally acclaimed speaker. The Student Government Association also commends those students who were in attendance at the Student Forum held on Monday at 7 p.m. titled "The Politics of Waller County" with city mayor Frank Jackson and political science professor Michael Nojeim. To all students, staff, faculty and administrators, SGA wishes all a relaxing spring break holiday and a safe return back to the university.

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Vigilance urged after Supreme Court censorship decision

By Bravetta Hassell
Black College Wire

Advocates for strong collegiate press freedom urged student journalists to remain vigilant in their quest to thoroughly and responsibly report the news after the U.S. Supreme Court announced Feb. 21 it would not hear arguments in a case challenging censorship at public universities.

For students and free-press advocates across the country, concerns linger also: Will college administrators see the justices' decision as additional reason to exert control over the student press? Just days ago, at an HBCU Newspaper Conference in Greensboro, N.C., student editors from historically black colleges discussed First Amendment breaches affecting their newspapers.

"Whether or not they try to curb these freedoms and rights remains to be seen," said Tom Rolnicki, executive director of the Associated Collegiate Press, the largest and oldest national membership organization for college student media. He was speaking of school administrators.

The case began more than five years ago when three students at Governors State University in Illinois sued the school after administrators demanded prior review of the Innovator, the student newspaper. Patricia Carter, then the dean, told the newspaper's printer in October 2000 to hold future issues of the paper pending administration approval of its contents. The Innovator had printed news stories and editorials critical of the school

administration. The Innovator then stopped publishing.

Student journalists Margaret Hosty, Jeni Porche and Steven Barba sued the university in January 2001. In April 2003, the students gained a small victory when a three-judge panel of a lower court denied the university's attempt to have the case dismissed, and threw its support behind college press freedom.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan then filed a petition on behalf of Dean Carter for the case to be reheard in the federal appeals court. That petition was granted and last June, the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the university.

Its decision, in effect, reduced the First Amendment rights of college journalists to those of high school students. It said a ruling in a landmark case, the 1988 Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier decision allowing administrators to censor high school publications, also applied to student media at public universities.

The Supreme Court did not issue a statement of explanation, but its decision allows the lower court ruling to stand. It directly affects students in the states covered by the 7th Circuit -- Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

"College administrators may be emboldened to censor in ways they haven't censored before," warned Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center.

The center, which fields hundreds of calls from student journalists each year regarding

First Amendment issues, has been following the case from the beginning and submitted two friend-of-the-court briefs supporting the students' appeal.

Goodman expressed disappointment after the Supreme Court ruling, but said in a published statement, "the battle is far from over."

Students cannot prepare for the news business if they cannot freely practice journalism, said a disappointed Valerie D. White, chair of the Black College Communication Association, an organization of faculty members teaching journalism at black colleges and universities. None of the nation's historically black schools is in Indiana, Illinois or Wisconsin.

"It's great that it only extends to three states, but it does not keep other college administrators from testing the waters," White said.

Eddie Cole Jr., editor in chief of the Meter of Tennessee State University, called

the Supreme Court's decision "a shame."

It may open up the doors for more prior review cases to occur, which would make the decision an injustice to student journalists and the First Amendment itself, he said. "We can only wait it out and see," he said.

Prior review impedes students' ability to learn to be journalists.

"You don't develop a sense of pride for your work if you know that you have a safety net," Cole said.

The Meter experienced troubles with prior review in 2001, after it published an editorial criticizing the university administration. The university president at that time told the newspaper's adviser to regularly review the paper before it was published. The adviser refused.

"I worry for the editor in chief that comes after me," said Cole. Lack of knowledge about the First Amendment

causes many of the press freedom issues that confront school administrators and student journalists, he said, suggesting that some could be prevented with better education.

Goodman called the Supreme Court decision troubling, and said it creates a conflict among the courts that will have to be decided. He was referring to censorship cases in other states and courts, in which judges have ruled in favor of student press freedom. It will be only a matter of time before the issue is dealt with and a standard for expression in college newspapers set, Goodman said.

"If school officials see this court action today as a green light for censorship, they're doing so at their own risk," said Goodman, pledging that center would become even more vigilant in its defense of college press freedoms.

Bravetta Hassell is a junior journalism student at Hampton University.

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Correction

In the story headlined Church, Inc. comes to PV with an artistic spin published Feb. 22 the name of the artist from Mississippi was incorrectly stated as Edward Swine. His correct name is Edward McSwine.

The truth about voodoo

By Sean Mitchell
Panther Staff

In the United States, Voodoo is often misunderstood. Many Americans see it as a group of people who get together and place curses on those they despise and hold it in the same regard as devil worshipping. But a deeper look into Voodoo reveals a more civil and acceptable practice that dispels the negative connotations that people try to hold against the religion.

Voodoo (also spelled Vudun, Vodou, and Vudu), can trace its origins to the earliest times of human history. This religion, according to www.swagga.com, is one of the oldest in human history, tracing back 10,000 years. It is believed that there was not just one form, but rather many early tribes' beliefs mixed to provide

the original foundation. However, the Voodoo that the world recognizes today is generally believed to have been cemented in Haiti during the period of slave trade. This is ironic considering the fact that Caucasian captors were certain that destroying the slave's fabric of belongingness to a particular tribe or ethnic group would only keep the slaves separate. Conversely, it only brought the slaves together through their common beliefs and practices in Voodoo.

As has been stated before, Voodoo is misunderstood; it is not the practice of placing curses on people or sticking pins and needles in dolls. When looked at more closely the true nature of Voodoo can be found. Swagga.com's article on the religion features one passage that captures Voodoo's essence in a way that is not formal, but in a way that

seems more personal: "Within the voodoo society, there are no accidents. Practitioners believe that nothing and no event has a life of its own. That is why 'vous deux,' you two, you too. The universe is all one. Each thing affects something else. Scientists know that. Nature knows it. Many spiritualists agree that we are not separate; we all serve as parts of one. So, in essence, what you do unto another, you do unto you, because you ARE the other. Voodoo. View you. We are mirrors of each other's souls. God is manifest through the spirits of ancestors who can bring good or harm and must be honored in ceremonies." ("The Essence of Voodoo" section). In other words, every one thing (including a person) depends upon something else to keep the order of nature. Since all these parts work together, they are in reality part of "One."

Everything in the universe is really just a system of parts that is really all the same.

Voodoo ceremonies feature many objects and ideas. These may include music, dance, animals, or "healing hands." In ceremony, a priest/priestess (often called a Maman for females or Papa for males) may be asked by a participant for help, whether mentally, physically, or spiritually. The priestess may offer help through herbs and medicine or through faith. The power of serpents is also revered within Voodoo, a power that within the tradition of the religion is vested through the priest as a vehicle of expression of their power. Additionally, one more feature of the ceremony, the dancing, is a connection to the supernatural and to the spirits.

Finally, a major misconception about Voodoo arises

from simple confusion over it and another ancient African religion known as Hoodoo, specifically the local variant known as New Orleans Voodoo. According to Wikipedia, practitioners of New Orleans Voodoo may use graveyard dirt, powders and puppets (or dolls) and are said to place curses on other people. The problem is that this is actually close to Hoodoo and thus should not be confused with actual Voodoo despite use of the word Voodoo in its name. It is uncertain how the two practices came to become compared to each other, though some theorize that is has to do with the religions' similar pronunciation.

For more information on the subject of Voodoo, log onto <http://www.swagga.com/voodoo.htm>, as well Wikipedia's article <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voodoo>.

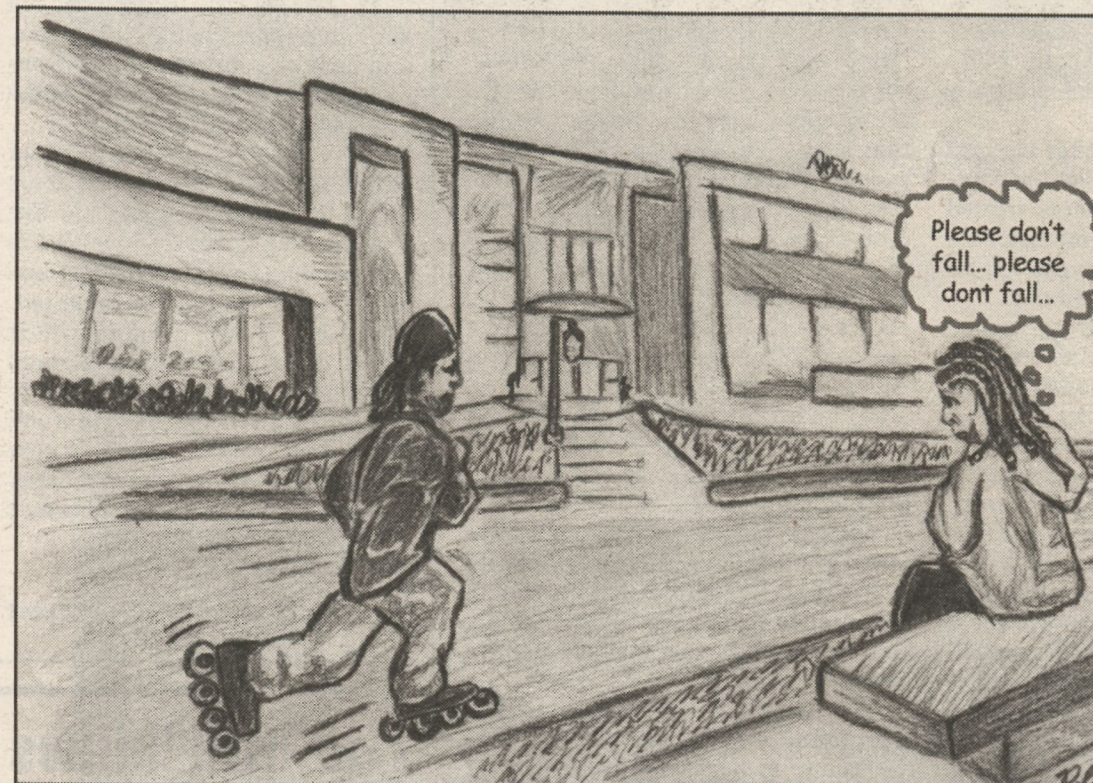
IN THE SPIRIT

EDITED BY ANEKA MEKA ANEKA@PVAMU.EDU

VIEWPOINTS

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The "Hill"billies



Let your voice be heard...
submit a letter to the editor
panther@pvamu.edu

Reader disturbed by letter from the editor

I am disturbed with your "attack" on those who disagreed with your title- "For My Niggas." I too disagree with the use of the word "nigga." But of course, everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. You asked the two students to look beyond the title, that it was used figuratively. Was it a catchy title you needed to get your article read? And, the fact you were encouraged that you stirred up controversy, stating it showed signs of good journalism-dangerous. By using the word Nigga, whether to stir controversy or for shock journalism, you are giving whites, Asians, Mexicans, and Hispanics the okay to use it too. Why is it you can identify with nigga but not white trash, chinks, or wetbacks?

I know quite a few graduates of PV, and many who have sent their

children. I am a black professional working for the state of Texas. Racism is alive and well. My charge to you is to be careful how you represent your institution. Those students were right; any others do still equate niggers and blacks as one in the same. So, we have to be careful not to encourage it. Think about it, how many times have we read the title, and not the whole article? Now imagine a non-African American doing that. It might leave an impression that we don't mind being called such names. You are in a great position at Prairie View. People on the outside will see your publication and "judge" the whole university. Let's leave the word "nigga" for the truly ignorant - gangsta rappers who continue to degrade our race, women, and children.

Valencia Taylor

Prairie View A&M University Special Programs Awareness Series

Presents...

The Faceless Woman Carolyn Thomas

... of Waco, Texas, survived domestic violence after being shot at point blank range by her boyfriend. Come hear the miraculous and motivational story that ultimately deems her the "Unforgettable Hero."

Relationship Abuse

Oprah Winfrey The Insider Larry King Live

Domestic Violence Tuesday
March 21, 2006
MSC Ballroom
7pm

Reception & Free T-Shirts for
Participants Following Seminar

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Weight Management Workshop

Do you want to lose weight? Do you need help doing so? Can't afford the help of expensive personal trainers, psychologists, and nutritional counselors? The Student Counseling Center of Prairie View A&M University is offering a Weight Management Workshop. This workshop is being offered to students and staff at no charge.

Workshop Objectives

- Learn proven methods of achieving and maintaining a healthy body weight.
- Identify healthy & effective eating strategies
- Identify healthy & realistic strategies to increase physical activity
- Learn mental strategies to maintain desired eating & exercise behavior
- Acquire strategies for overcoming barriers to weight management goals

When

Tuesdays and Thursdays for 3 weeks
Beginning Tuesday 21Mar06
12-1:30pm

Where

Owens-Franklin Health Center, 1st floor conference room

Sign Up

To sign up for the Weight Management Workshop please call Dr Victor Pendleton on ext. 1215, or visit him in the Student Health Center, room 234.

The Department of Student Activities & Leadership Presents....

Back Basics

Thursday
March 23, 2006



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Style 2006
MSC Auditorium
7:00 pm
Expose



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EOE

Dick Gregory a hit on topics from Katrina to "N" word

By Marshall A. Latimore
Black College Wire

When Demetria Griffin, a senior chemistry major at Tennessee State University, heard that Dick Gregory was coming to speak at the Nashville school, she knew she couldn't miss the chance to see him.

"I'm glad I missed class to hear him speak," said Griffin, of Lithonia, Ga. "He was informative and I'm glad he didn't give a stereotypical speech. What he had to say will speak life into people's existence long after this speech today."

Griffin and nearly 500 students, faculty, staff, administrators and members of the public came to hear the noted comedian and civil rights activist on Feb. 21.

Gregory, father of 10 and 47-year husband of Lillian Gregory, has seen much in his 73 years. He said all but one of his children attended historically black colleges, and he would not have had it any other way.

"Against my better judgment, I let my oldest daughter attend a white school," Gregory said with a chuckle. "And I can't stand her. If she didn't have two doctorates, we would have committed her to a mental institution a long time ago."

In similar jest, Gregory spoke on topics ranging from the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina to the war in Iraq to common sense advice on raising kids and how to treat people.

"The word 'katrina' is a Russian word that means cleansing," Gregory said. "It was a wake-up call for everyone. Yes, some black people lost out, but if I have

roller skates and you have a Rolls-Royce and someone steals them both, who's really losing the most when I'm already near walking?"

"The same God that created Hitler created Jews, just like the same God that created slave masters created slaves. I dare you to have compassion for one group and not have compassion for the other. They're all God's children."

Gregory offered his take on the use of "nigger," a long-disputed term in the African American community and the title of his 1964 autobiography.

"If the word 'nigger' bothers you, then you're a 'nigger,'" Gregory said. "If the Germans suddenly changed the word 'concentration camp' to the 'c-word' or the word 'swastika' to the 's-word,' do you think the Jews will allow that to happen? Of course they wouldn't, because it would be changing history. The word 'nigger' will always be a part of our history and it's not going anywhere, as it should be."

Michael Moore, a senior who double majors in electrical engineering and mathematics, said he was "ecstatic" after Gregory said that. "I was one who got offended when my brothers would call me one, but now I feel as I can ignore them just as if they called me Malcolm or Matthew," said Moore, an Atlanta native. "I know that my name is Michael. It made me think of the phrase 'if the shoe fits, wear it.' Now I know better."

Gregory marched beside civil rights legends Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, and urged audience members to familiarize themselves with the civil rights movement in its entirety.

"You have to know Coretta, you

have to know King," but you also have to 'know what the movement was about,' Gregory said. "We had a good life, the greatest movement in history. That day that King died, the lights went out in people's minds. When Lyndon Johnson signed the civil rights bill, we freed everyone."

A prominent member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Gregory also addressed Greek-letter fraternities and sororities, challenging them to improve their initiation processes.

"The Mafia is one of the most powerful organizations in the world and they don't have a ridiculous intake process," Gregory said. "If hurt and pain is qualification for joining your organization, then I'm more than qualified - America took care of that. Besides, I'm a part of an organization older than General Motors and we do not have a fraction of GM's power."

Gregory's words seemed to have a profound effect. Many stayed after the lecture to hear what some likened to the charismatic voice of a father or grandfather.

Gregory "did an exemplary job of connecting humor with a serious message," said Dorothy Lockridge, interim vice president of student affairs. "He challenged us to think, to see beyond the crafty camouflaged message that the powers-that-be would have us believe."

Gregory left his audience, consisting mostly of college students, with this: "Since the day you were born, the universal God gave you all the intelligence you need."

Marshall A. Latimore, a student at Tennessee State University, writes for the Meter.

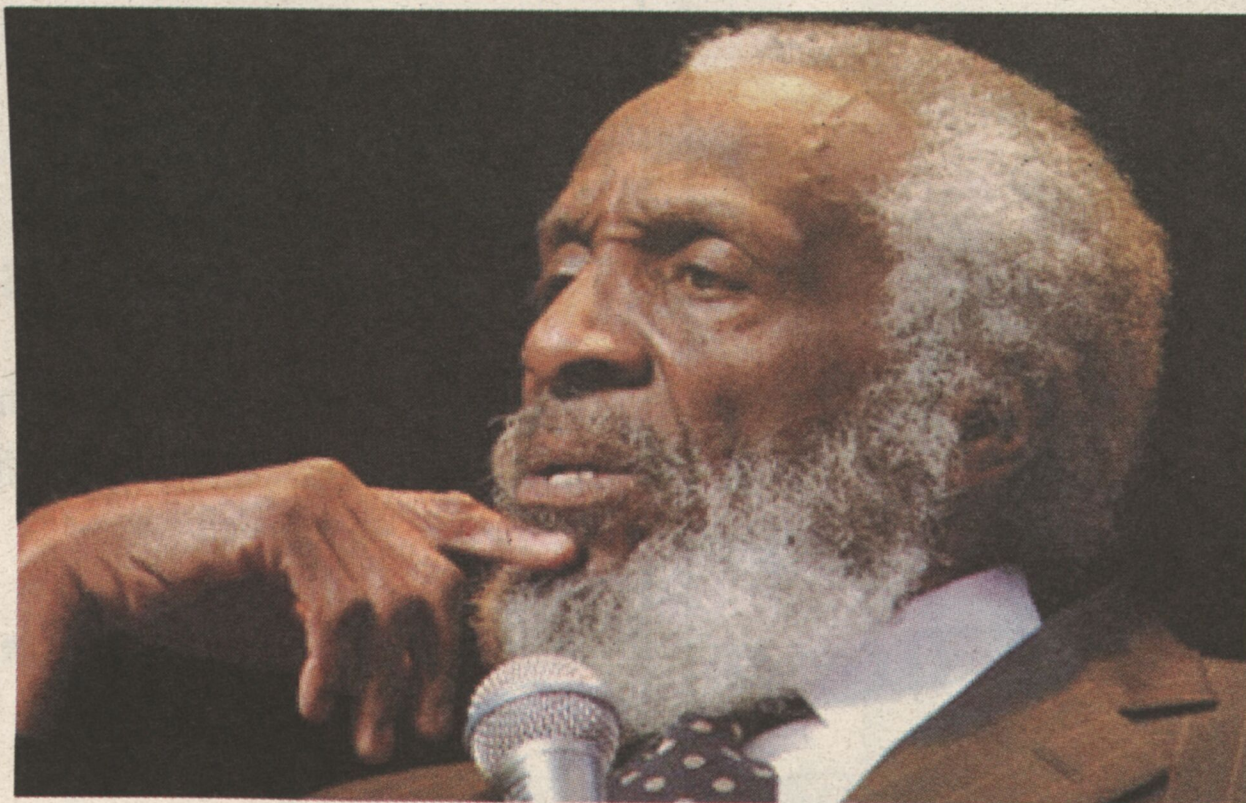


Photo credit: K. Cummings/The Meter

Comedy and intelligence: Activist Dick Gregory told a Tennessee State University audience that all but one of his 10 children attended a historically black college.

Response to students' letter

I was just writing to let you know that your column spoke to me. Just because I am not of the African-American race doesn't mean that the column didn't mean anything.

For the life of me I cannot figure out why those two students would be so outraged. It's not like I called them a "nigga," which I'm sure would get my ass beat. It was one of their own calling them out, asking them to start living up to their potential. I enjoyed the article a lot and sincerely hope that you continue to print such articles that call us out and make us realize what we can do if we put our minds to it. It doesn't matter what race you are. We all need to start living up to our potential.

Brandy Waterstreet

The "Hill"billies



SPORTS

EDITED BY RASHAD MORGAN RMORGAN@PIAMU.EDU



Photo courtesy of Evan White

Holding the crown: The men's tennis team is setting pace to repeat its championship run of last season and win the title.

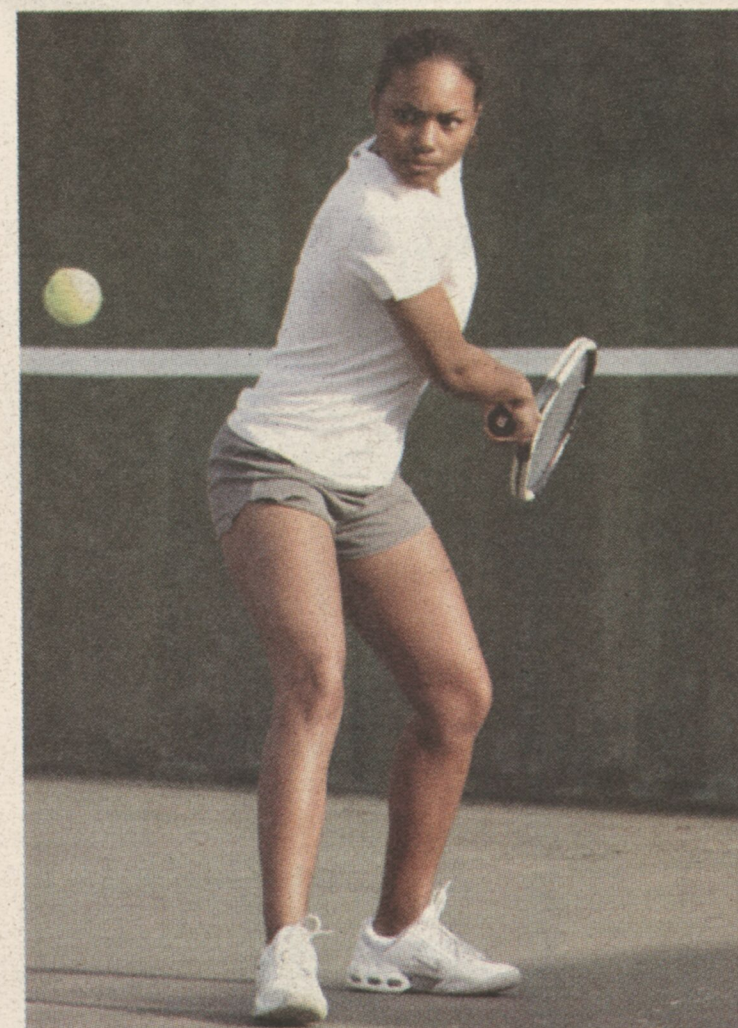


Photo courtesy of Evan White

Undeclared: Melanie Brown went 3-0 at the invitational.

Grambling falls to Prairie View in men's and women's tennis

By Rashad H. Morgan
Sports Editor

The Prairie View tennis teams spear headed by Coach John Cochran are continuing their winning ways by defeating the Grambling State Tigers in a convincing victory this past Saturday.

The tennis team hosted the 1st annual Prairie View Invitational, which spanned four days, Thursday through Sunday.

Both the mens and womens teams ended the invitational with a 1-1 record, both losing to Texas Southern and both defeating Grambling.

After falling to Texas Southern 0-7, the men's team quickly redeemed themselves two days later by pouncing Grambling 6-1.

Kudzai Chiridza, Nolas Bateman, Jose Talavera, and David Herrera were all successful in singles play.

Herrera humiliated his opponent, Jairo Anguera, with

a final score of 6-0, 6-1.

Bateman also recorded a shutout by beating Tiger Chad Edwards 6-0, 6-2.

The doubles teams of Talavera and Luis Godoy, and Herrera and Xavier Godoy were also victorious in defeating both of Grambling's doubles squads.

Thursday versus Texas Southern Marika Dawkins and Melanie Brown were the only two Panthers that managed defeat a TSU opponent.

Saturday, in women's play, Dawkins, Brown, Antoinette Majors, Michele Scurry, and Nicole Banks all recorded singles victories against Grambling players.

On the team's victory Brown said "It gives us confidence to beat other teams in the conference and it keeps us motivated, and it feels good to have a conference win under our belt."

Brown also teamed up with Scurry in doubles play to annihilate their Tiger opponents. Dawkins and Majors were also successful in doubles play.

Upcoming Events

Baseball

3/11 @ Grambling	1:00 pm
3/12 @ Grambling	1:00 pm
3/14 vs. UT-Pan Am	1:00 pm
3/15 vs. UT-Pan Am	12:00 pm
3/17 @ McNeese State	6:30 pm
3/18 @ McNeese State	1:00 pm
3/25 @ Southern	1:00 pm
3/26 @ Southern	1:00 pm

Softball

3/11 vs. McNeese State	1:00 pm
3/14 @ Houston Baptist	2:00 pm
3/17 vs. Miss. Valley St.	6:30 pm
3/18 vs. Miss. Valley St.	11:00 am
3/22 vs. Houston Bap.	4:00 pm
3/23 vs. Texas College	5:00 pm

Track & Field

Men

3/10-11 SWAC Indoor Champ.	
Fayetteville, AR	
3/11 York Relays	
Huntsville, TX	

Women

3/10-11 SWAC Indoor Champ.	
Fayetteville, AR	
3/11 York Relays	
Huntsville, TX	

Tennis

Men

3/11 @ Rice	6:00 pm
3/16-19 SWAC Western Chall.	
Baton Rouge, LA	6:00 pm

Women

3/10-11 Lady Panther Shootout	
Prairie View, TX	6:00 pm
3/16-19 SWAC Western Chall.	
Baton Rouge, LA	6:00 pm

Golf

Men

3/6-8 @ Southern	9:00 am
3/13-15 Prairie View	
Jersey Village, TX	9:00 am

Women

3/6-8 @ Southern	9:00 am
3/13-15 Prairie View	
Jersey Village, TX	9:00 am

Yao Ming begins to emerge as offensive force for Rockets

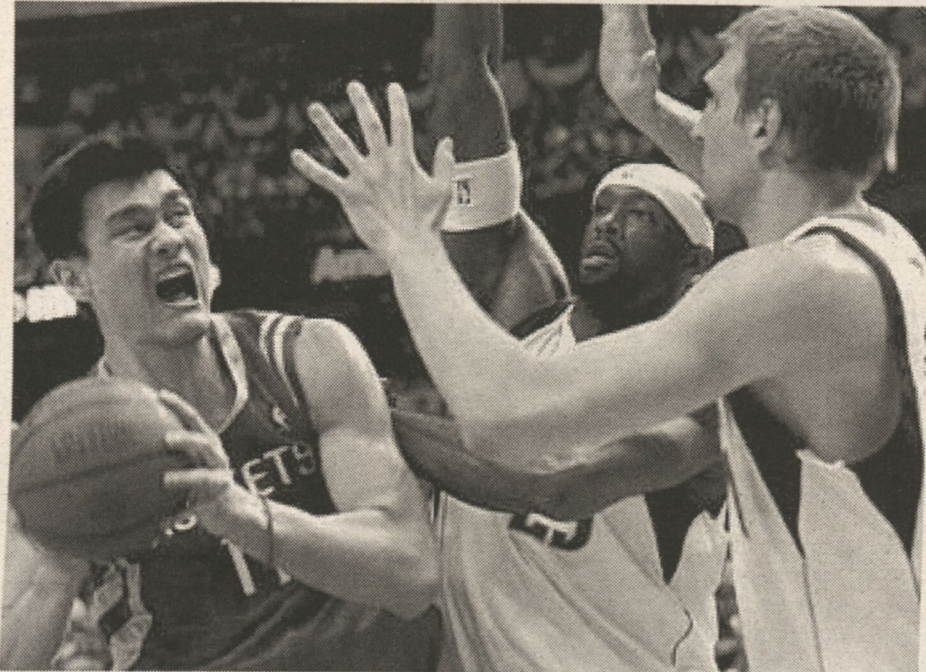


Photo courtesy of Associated Press

Coming of age: So far this season Yao has averaged 20.8 points per game.

Associated Press

With Yao Ming emerging as an offensive force, the Houston Rockets didn't need Tracy McGrady on Tuesday night.

Yao topped 20 points for the eighth straight game, scoring 30 points and grabbing 13 rebounds to lead the Rockets to a 93-87 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

With McGrady on the bench again with back problems, Yao dominated the paint and Stromile Swift added 11 points and nine boards off the bench for Houston, which used a 12-0 run to start the fourth quarter to get their third straight victory.

"Without McGrady our record is pretty poor," Yao said of the Rockets' 2-13 mark without their star forward. "Before today we only had one. I really feel a lot of pressure because my teammates look to me and my opponent focuses on me, double team a lot, but we're here, there's no way back. We can only go forward and we came out with the victory."

Marcus Banks scored many of his 26 points with the game already decided, and Mark Blount scored 12 of his 18 points in the first quarter before fouling out for the Timberwolves.

"It was terrible. We gave the game away tonight," Ricky Davis said. "Everybody has to take initiative and take it upon themselves to not lose leads and stay on them. ... We just went back to our bad habit we've been having trouble with -- losing our focus."

The Rockets again were without McGrady, their leading scorer at 24.6 points a game, after his bothersome back flared up in Sunday's game against Portland.

McGrady scored 18 points in the win over the Blazers before leaving late in the third quarter. He was a game-

time decision on Tuesday night, but Keith Bogans started in his place.

When McGrady goes to the bench, it's almost always bad news for the Rockets.

But Yao more than compensated, extending his career-best streak of 20-plus points in style. He was aggressive all night, using an impressive array of turnaround jumpers, bull rushes to the rim and soft hook shots.

"I know at least in the last five games, to me he's completely dominated," David Wesley said. "Numbers like 29 [points] and 15 [rebounds], 22 and 21, double-doubles every night not just 15 and 10, we're talking big double-doubles. That's big. It gives us a major presence in the paint. ... He's carrying the load right now."

The undersized Wolves didn't have an answer. Blount got off to a fast start, but was overwhelmed down the stretch, as was Eddie Griffin and even Garnett.

"He's a handful for us down there wrestling with him," Wolves coach Dwane Casey said. "He's really played well and been a force."

Blount went right at Yao to start the game, scoring 12 points in the first quarter to help the Timberwolves to a 25-16 lead.

The Timberwolves made 12 of their first 19 shots, nearly all of them mid-range jumpers. But they hit a drought at the end of the first period, missing nine straight shots, a precursor of things to come.

After spending a chunk of the period on the bench with foul trouble, Yao returned to score six straight points for a 61-60 lead in the third period.

Rafer Alston added 17 points and five assists for Houston, which shot just 39 percent from the field, but made 47 percent of its 3-pointers (7-of-15) to overcome a six-point deficit to start the fourth.

Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett dies at 45

Associated Press

Kirby Puckett didn't need much time to make a big impact. Those who felt it, near and far, can only wish he had stayed around longer.

The bubbly Hall of Famer with the boyish enthusiasm for baseball, who led the Minnesota Twins to two World Series titles before his career was cut short by glaucoma, died Monday after a stroke. He was 45.

"He was revered throughout the country and will be remembered wherever the game is played," commissioner Bud Selig said. "Kirby was taken from us much too soon -- and too quickly."

Stricken early Sunday at his Arizona home, Puckett died at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, where friends and family had gathered. Puckett, who was divorced, is survived by his children, Catherine and Kirby Jr. He was engaged to be married to his fiancée, Jodi Olson, this summer. Funeral arrangements were pending.

Puckett's post retirement weight gain over the past decade had concerned friends and family, who were saddened but not shocked by his stroke.

"It's a tough thing to see a guy go through something like that and come to this extent," former teammate Kent Hrbek said.

Puckett led the Twins to championships in 1987 and 1991 after breaking into the majors in 1984. With a career batting average of .318, six Gold Gloves and 10 All-Star game appearances, Puckett woke up one morning during spring training in

1996 with blindness in his right eye, a condition that forced him to retire.

"It's tough to take," Twins general manager Terry Ryan said from the team's spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla. "He had some faults, we knew that, but when all was said and done he would treat you as well as he would anyone else. No matter who you were."

"When you're around him, he makes you feel pretty good about yourself. He can make you laugh. He can do a lot of things that can light up a room. He's a beauty," Ryan said.

He stopped attending spring training as a special instructor in 2002.

Puckett was elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility in 2001, and his plaque praised his "ever-present smile and infectious exuberance."

He spent his entire career with Minnesota. "I wore one uniform in my career, and I'm proud to say that," Puckett once said.

Puckett's signature performance came in Game 6 of the 1991 World Series against Atlanta. After telling anyone who would listen before the game that he would lead the Twins to victory that night at the Metrodome, he made a leaping catch against the fence and then hit a game-ending homer in the 11th inning to force a seventh game.

The next night, Minnesota's Jack Morris went all 10 innings to outlast John Smoltz and pitch the Twins to a 1-0 win for their second championship in five years.

"His name just seemed to be synonymous with being a superstar," the

See Puckett on page 11



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

Champ: Puckett won six gold gloves and two world series with the Twins.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006

Sanders named to All-SWAC second team

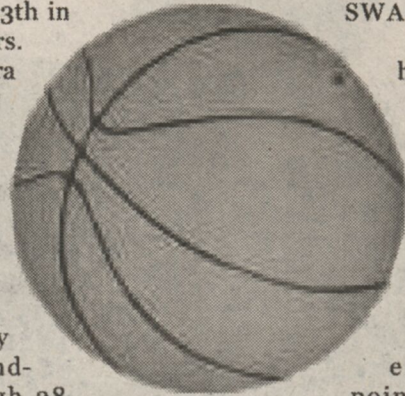
By Andrew Roberts
Panther News Service

For the second consecutive season, Prairie View A&M University Lady Panther basketball player Ciara Sanders has received postseason honors. Sanders was selected to the all-Southwestern Athletic Conference second team.

The 5-3 sophomore guard from Flint, Mich. ranked seventh in the SWAC in scoring and led all PVAMU scorers averaging 13.7 points per game and 2.4 assists (13th in Lady Panthers).

"Ciara has been a leader on our entire sea-head coach Cooper. She does all of the accolades and honors receives for standing play

Sanders scored a career-high 28 points against Jackson State in a 73-64 loss on Jan. 14. Last season, she was named the SWAC freshman of the year and was voted to the preseason all-conference team this season.



has been a team the son," said Cynthia Dyke. "She serves colades that she her out this year."

Sanders scored 64 points against

Men's basketball looks for new head coach

Panther News Service

Prairie View A&M University athletic director Charles McClelland announced earlier this week that the university will immediately begin a national search to fill the position of head men's basketball coach.

Over the past year, former assistant coach Darrell Hawkins assumed the reins as the team's interim head coach after the departure of Jerome Francis, Jr. late last spring.

As the interim head coach Hawkins tallied up a record of 2-16, 5-24. Prairie View defeated Alabama State in its final home game of the season Feb. 27.

"We are thankful to Coach Hawkins for taking over our men's basketball program on an interim basis this year," said McClelland.

According to McClelland, the university plans to have a coach in place by the first week of April.

Puckett from page 10

Braves pitcher added. "It's not supposed to happen like this."

Hall of Fame catcher Carlton Fisk echoed Smoltz's sentiment.

"There was no player I enjoyed playing against more than Kirby. He brought such joy to the game. He elevated the play of everyone around him," Fisk said in a statement to the Hall.

The youngest of nine children born into poverty in a Chicago housing project, Puckett was drafted by the Twins in 1982 and became a regular just two years later. He got four hits in his first major league start and finished with 2,304 in only 12 seasons.

He made his mark on baseball's biggest stage, leading heavy underdog Minnesota to a seven-game victory over St. Louis in 1987 and then doing the same against Atlanta in one of the most thrilling Series in history.

"There are a lot of great players in this game, but only one Kirby," pitcher Rick Aguilera said when Puckett announced his retirement. "It was his character that meant more

to his teammates. He brought a great feeling to the clubhouse, the plane, everywhere."


Puckett's best year was 1988, when he batted .356 with 24 home runs, 42 doubles and 121 RBI.

A contact hitter and stolen base threat in the minors who hit a total of four homers in his first two major league seasons, Puckett developed a power stroke in 1986 and went deep a career-best 31 times.

He became a fixture in the third spot in Minnesota's lineup, a free swinging outfielder with a strong arm and a flair for nifty catches despite his 220-pound frame that made him look more like a fullback. The man known simply as "Puck" was immensely popular.

Hit by a pitch that broke his jaw on his last at-bat of the 1995 season, Puckett woke up one morning the following spring and couldn't see out of his right eye. It was eventually diagnosed as glaucoma, forcing him to call it quits that July.

Ryan said he had an "empty" feeling that day, much like the mood around the organization Monday. "His time came way too early," Ryan said.



PANTHERS

On the Prowl

Giving you something to talk about!!

PROMOTING HEALTHY DECISIONS

Negative Consequences of Alcohol

Had a hangover	65%
Became nauseated or vomited	55%
Later regretted actions	41%
Experienced memory loss	35%
Missed class	34%
Got into an argument or fight	32%
Been criticized for my drinking habits	32%
Drove while intoxicated	29%
Performed poorly on a test	24%

Source: Presley, Cheryl A., Leichter, Jami S., and Melman, Philip W. *Alcohol and Drugs on American College Campuses: A Report to College Presidents*. The Core Institute Students Health Programs, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 2001.

"When my cup is empty, I fill it up."

"Drinking age laws really don't mean much to me. I don't need somebody else to tell me when I'm ready to drink."

"I only drink on weekends, and I always stop at three beers."

"I don't like to throw up, so I try to stop drinking before I vomit."

HIV can share my body, but not my hopes

By Tawain Kelly
Black College Wire

"If no one tells you that your life is important," says Tawain Kelly, "I am here to say it is." It's my face. I can't afford my medicine; I can't pay for my hospital visits and everything that keeps me alive. There is no cure yet for AIDS. I know it will come one day, but until then, having the HIV virus is hell on earth: the crying, getting so sick until I can't move, the violent vomiting, the pills I have to take.

I tell myself that HIV can share my body, but it can't share my mind, my spirit, my hopes, my goals, my dream and my love.

I believe that the number of HIV/AIDS cases on historically black campuses is much higher than generally thought, that some school officials may worry that reporting

the actual number of people who are HIV-positive might lead to a drop in enrollment.

Some officials will not even admit that HIV exists on their campuses unless people come forward, people like Jonathan Perry, a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., who "came out" at his school, or others like myself, a student at Benedict College.

The woman who gave me the virus in 1995 died before I found out I had it. I found out in 1997. HIV can stay in your system for 10 to 20 years without being detected.

Last year, I went from 137 pounds to 62 pounds. I almost died. I had a mild stroke, went blind in my right eye and had feeding tubes inside me. I couldn't walk. I was given intravenous tubes.

What I have that really matters is a college whose

students, faculty and staff continue to pray for me. I have the prayers of my family, my church and positive people who circle around me and pray for my healing. I also have a praying mother. Never underestimate the prayers of a mother. She told me that whether I live or die, everything will be all right. When I heard those words, I got it together. I buried the old me and celebrated the new one.

I will graduate from Benedict in May 2007, good Lord willing. HIV does not define me. We make choices every day on whether to go to class, what to wear and what to eat. How about making the choice to live and to be "Young, Black and Positive"? I

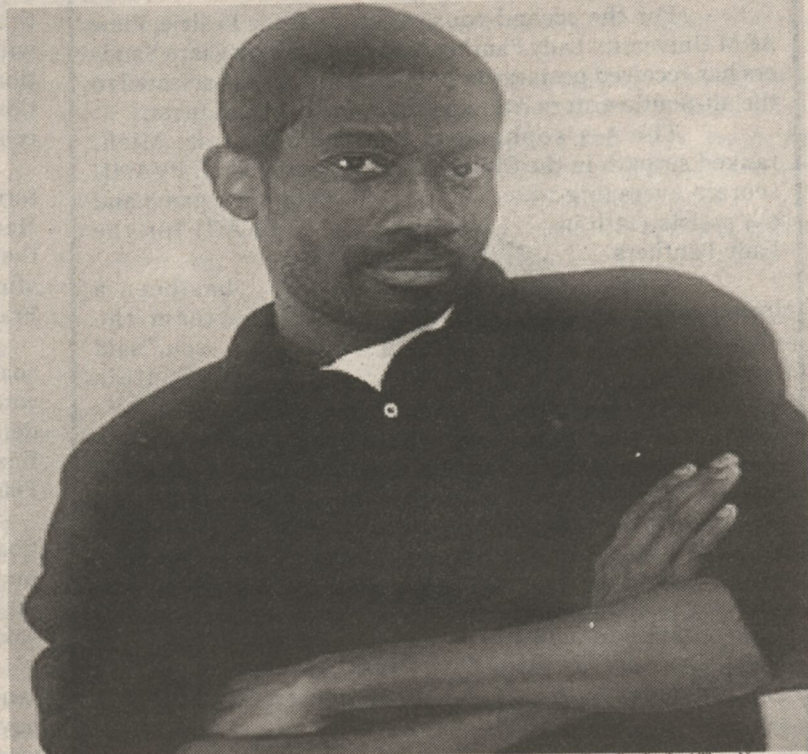


Photo credit: Lameika Sanford/Tiger News

"If no one tells you that your life is important," says Tawain Kelly, "I am here to say it is."

The connection between drugs and HIV

By Drechelle Edwards
Panther Correspondent

We are all aware of the link between HIV infection and injecting drugs or unprotected sexual intercourse. This same link can be made between HIV infection and alcohol consumption, although this connection is not as straightforward as injecting drugs or unprotected sex. Since no unsafe body fluids are exchanged during drinking, many people assume that alcohol has no connection to HIV infection.

Alcohol slows down your bodily functions, causing slower thinking and slower reaction. Even after having one drink, the powerful effects of alcohol may be present, especially for those unaccustomed to drinking. When this scenario is added to a person feeling a strong sexual attraction, this could end in unintended unprotected sex, which can very well lead to HIV infection.

What about the "social" drinker? Social drink-

ing may also lead to HIV-related risk behaviors. When a person is mildly drunk they are less likely to follow some of the rules they normally would. For instance, a person who has sworn to use condoms and latex barriers during sex may "forget" or find it difficult to use them after a couple of drinks. Studies have shown that alcohol is the single most common used substance associated with the decision to slip and have unprotected sex.

Alcohol also creates black outs if used excessively over a period of time. During this time one may become involved in unprotected sexual activity or injected drug use and not be able to recall the events. This then makes it difficult to assess their risk of HIV infection.

The connection is clear, alcohol can cause risky behavior. Protect yourself by evaluating your feelings about the epidemic; consider your past and present risks for HIV infection. Get tested to know for sure.



The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

HAVE A GREAT
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You must have a grade of 'C' (OR 'S') or better in your developmental class (es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for summer or fall 2006.

Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick THEA testing schedule or call 936/857-2747.

- ✓ Bldg #38 hosted a successful seminar on "Planned Parent Hood: Parenting and Protection."
- ✓ UC held its Fourth annual "Black History Talent Show" on March 8th!! Congratulations to all who participated!!

UC TUTORIALS ARE HELD WEDNESDAYS FROM 4-7 PM IN THE PANTHER ROOM: MATH, ENGLISH AND MORE!!

BE SMART! BE SAFE! PLAY BY ALL THE RULES!

"Girl, I need me a . . ."

By the Hilltop Editorial Board
Black College Wire

Take a close look at Howard University classrooms, or any classroom for that matter, and one will find that the ratio of women to men is alarming. When you listen to conversations about who's dating who and how many women a certain man has, it becomes clear that men are like kids in a candy shop.

Black men are appealing to women of all races, and they are often the objects of serious competition among single black women.

There are not enough black men to pass around, unless women want to share. Who wants to share her man or bend over backward just to get one? There are so many fabulous but lonely black women and single mothers due to the ratio of eligible men to available women in the black community.

We don't want to beat the issues of black men being incarcerated or homosexual,

dating women of other races, or other situations that make black men unavailable to black women.

The media seem to be pairing black women with white men. Many of us watched the new film "Something New" and put some thought into the idea of interracial dating. Interracial dating is not a new idea, but it has been more commonly linked with black men than white women. Halle Berry, Shar Jackson and others have been spotted with the lighter shades.

A majority of black women, especially on Howard's campus, love black men to death. In reality, however, not everyone will be able to marry her ideal black man and follow up with a picket fence and the "Cosby Show" setup. The moral of the story is that black women have to be a bit more open in their dating habits.

People of other races do not have cooties (this applies for men, too). If you go on a date with a Hispanic or Caucasian

man, it doesn't mean it's the end of the world. You might just open up and meet a new friend, at the least. There is nothing

wrong with having a preference, but being close-minded might result in some lonely nights.



Photo credit: Shing Bahama/Focus Features

He's got she ways

By Jemma Hepburn
Panther Staff

Has he gotten a little too "in touch with his feminine side?" Does he have every mousse-moisturizer-activator-leave in conditioner-oil sheen-styling gel product from the Luster's line on his bathroom counter? And should you be angry that even though he's neglecting you, it's not because he's cheating on you or with his boys, but rather, because he's at the spa? If you can relate to any of these questions you may be dating a metrosexual, or maybe you're one yourself.

The word "metrosexual" has been thrown around, but for those among us who are still unfamiliar with it, a metrosexual is a modern-day term for a man who is not a homosexual (at least not openly), but lives a lifestyle like that of a woman or a gay man. Before the term

came about, the metro was always the guy that took too long getting dressed, or spent too much time in front of the mirror, but you didn't know exactly what to call him. You didn't want to call him gay, because you knew he didn't prefer men, but he certainly wasn't the typical butch Alpha-male.

So why, now, has society decided to label these "men with a passion-for-fashion?" Well, with the emergence of million-dollar-metros like Usher, P. Diddy, British "royalty" David Beckham, and the mother of all metro-sexuals, Ryan Seacrest, it's no wonder "metro-sexuality" has become so insanely popular.

One question, though, that has risen from the popularity of these "primping men" is whether or not they're still real men. Bluntly put, are they a manicure away from being gay? Kyle-Michael Bain, an Engineering-Technology sophomore states, "No, they're still real men, they just dress well." Megan Goodwin, a criminal justice sophomore agreed

and said, "No, because him liking certain things doesn't take away from his manhood. That's like someone saying, I'm not a real woman because I like to dress a certain way."

On the contrary, Sahid Massaquoi, a criminal justice senior explains, "Yes. I'm not saying real men aren't supposed to be presentable, but not too much to the point of being feminine." He jokes, "If you're walking around carrying hair products you're probably gay."

"No, he's still a man. He has the same attributes as a straight man," says Jason Edgcombe a business grad student. "A man is a man," exclaims mechanical engineering junior Benzino Martey. "You can't be a man, and doing all that feminine stuff!"

Whether metrosexuals love men, women or both, one thing is for sure they gracefully love themselves.

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Would you like to write, take pictures, for The Panther or submit a question to '20 Questions?'

Please send in your contact information or questions to:
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Who is this rapper Lil' L?

By Alanna Jones
News/Managing editor

As his ten digits were called on a Thursday for one of his first and most important interviews, the phone just rang and rang, no answer. The same ten digits were called on Friday, and still, no answer. What in the world could this Lil' L guy be doing? On Saturday, a break was taken hoping that he may call the strange Dallas number back on his phone, but no chance there. On an unusually cold day in Prairie, View TX., Sunday marked the day when he would answer the phone with surprise and, "Hello! Yes, I have time for an interview."

Although he goes by the name Lil' L among his friends because he was always the smallest guy in his crew, he was born as LaBrandon McDaniel in Texarkana, TX. on June 8, 1985.

At age 20, as a health and human performance major with a minor in business at PVAMU, Lil' L believes firmly in a solid education to back up his aspirations of becoming a rapper. "After the rapping is gone, it is important to get a degree to fall back on."

Born of a two-parent household, when Lil' L was at the age of nine his parents divorced, therefore he, his mother, and one only sibling moved to Sulfur Springs, TX. where his mother raised them single-handedly. Upon moving to Sulfur Springs, Lil' L and his family felt like outcasts. They had no other family in this small town, and he attributes his drive in the rap industry to this life experience. "In Sulfur, if you were not family people were not going to see you the same" he says. In the Sulfur Springs middle school, Lil' L was introduced to the game of rapping at a party where he and his friends got on stage and performed in front of the school. "Everybody liked

what we did, and that's how it all started," he says. Even before that middle school party, Lil' L says that his father was a DJ and would always keep him around that atmosphere as a youth.

These influences along with many others that came along later in his career is what

use behind their rapping," he says.

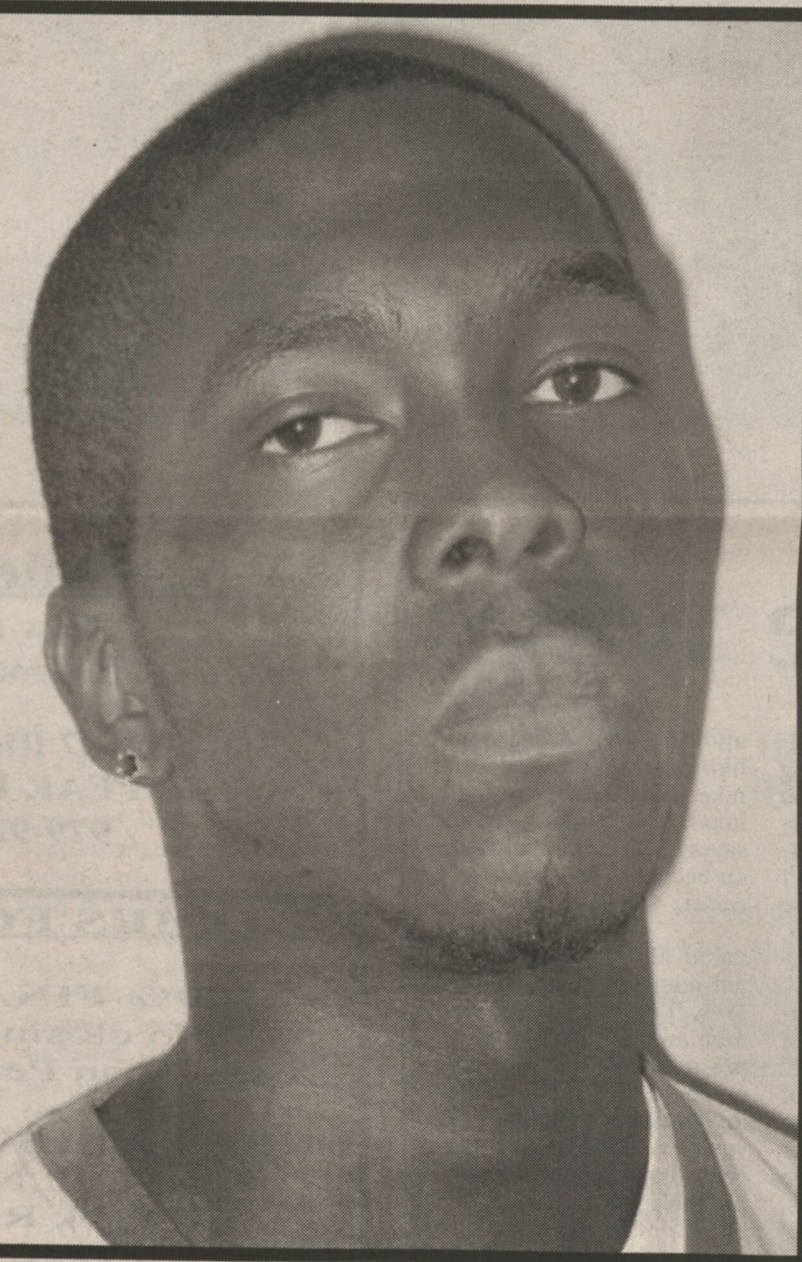
Although he's still young in age, Lil' L's laid back lyrics talk about the struggles of coming from a poor single parent household and how his mother had to work two jobs to give him and his sister the things they needed. "By watch-

of mouth, myspace.com, and facebook.com, he is featured on many mix tapes and CD's that he passes out for free so people can hear what he has to offer. "I will do whatever it takes to get my name out there, even if it means giving away free music," he says.

Lil' L's production team consists of manager, Ken Gibson who is responsible for production and promotion, entertainment producer/beat-maker, Rodney Wimberley better known as "Skinny-Scoop," lawyer, Pat Strong, director, Kevin Sorrell who is responsible for two videos and a DVD to be filmed this April, and Robin, who has allowed his team to make CDs and be the ears of what may or may not be good music. All of these people have been by Lil' L's side in the production of the summer classic The Takeover, and his upcoming release titled Taking Over To Expand by the Sothowed Click. Currently, Lil' L is in negotiations with Strait Biz Records to get signed by a major record label.

As Lil' L goes back to his normal chill mode, he turns on his favorite rapper Zero and says, "People have what they want and say what they have. I speak things into fruition. If I say it, that means it's going to happen. There's nothing I can't do."

For all of Lil' L's contact information and about upcoming CD's check out: www.soundclick.com/dasus.



helped him mold the rapping style that can be heard today.

With his family backing up his dreams, Lil' L says, "I'm not a gangsta, I just like to rap and tell people my story." Lil' L writes his own lyrics, and many artists such as TuPac, Zero, UGK, and NAS help him to formulate his style of rapping. "By listening to different artists, I can hear how they talk about their struggles, how they rhyme, and the personality they

ing my mother, that taught me how to grind to get what I wanted," he says, "And to be happy after the struggle is over."

Since he has been attending PVAMU, Lil' L says that being near the Houston area has helped him to network with various artists and DJs, which has in turn helped him to get his name known. "Grinding," is what Lil' L says he does on a daily basis. On top of promoting himself through word

Are you an aspiring artist that would like to share your story with *The Panther*?

Contact us at ext.2132 or panther@pvamu.com. We want to know who you are!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EDITED BY LACHENST. E. WHITLOW AND WHITLOW @PVAMU.EDU

And the winners are... The 78th annual Academy Award

Best Picture: "Crash."

Actor: Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Capote."

Actress: Reese Witherspoon, "Walk the Line."

Supporting Actor: George Clooney, "Syriana."

Supporting Actress: Rachel Weisz, "The Constant Gardener."

Director: Ang Lee, "Brokeback Mountain."

Foreign Film: "Tsotsi," South Africa.

Adapted Screenplay: Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, "Brokeback Mountain."

Original Screenplay: Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco, "Crash."

Animated Feature Film: "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit."

Art Direction: "Memoirs of a Geisha."

Cinematography: "Memoirs of a Geisha."

Sound Mixing: "King Kong."

Sound Editing: "King Kong."

Original Score: "Brokeback Mountain" Gustavo Santaolalla.

Original Song: "It's Hard out Here for a Pimp" from "Hustle & Flow" Jordan Houston, Cedric Coleman and Paul Beauregard.

Costume: "Memoirs of a Geisha."

Documentary Feature: "March of the Penguins."

Documentary (short subject): A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin."

Film Editing: "Crash."

Makeup: "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

Animated Short Film: "The Moon and the Son: An Imagined Conversation."

Live Action Short Film: "Six Shooter."

Visual Effects: "King Kong."

Events for Mar. 9-Mar.15, 2006

Thursday, 3/9 SGA 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. MSC, Rm. 111	Saturday, 3/11 Teacher Certification 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. NSB, Rm. 103	Monday, 3/13 Spring Break	Wednesday, 3/15 Spring Break
Douglas Leadership Institute 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. NSB, Rm. 104	Honda Campus All-Star 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. MSC, Rm. 204	Tuesday, 3/14 Spring Break	
SGA 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. MSC-204	DeltaSigmaTheta 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. TBA		
Alpha Kappa Alpha 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. New Science Building	Sunday, 3/12 Phi Beta Sigma 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. SL		
Friday, 3/10 No Events Scheduled			

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Panther Poetry Lounge

Why

By Kimberly R. Crawford

Why do I fall in love so fast
Why can't people forget the past
Why do they always think of their ex
What about the one who comes next
Why do we look at life the way we do
Why can't I find unconditional love
The kind everyone dreams of...Why?

Why can't you show me you care
Lay there like a log, you are just there
Why don't you show me your love
It's not the kind I've dreamed of
Why don't you know what to say
When asked how can you treat me this way...Why?

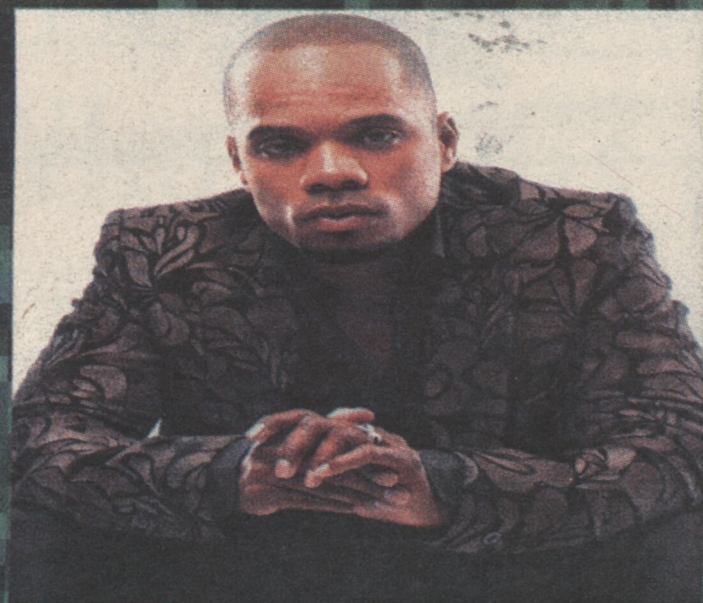


20 QUESTIONS



1. Who got stomped on at Greek Olympiad? 2. Why did most of his frat brothers run away while he was getting beat up? 3. Who is afraid to attend the elephant walk on Saturday? 4. Who is glad that someone is not running for re-election? 5. Who is paying people to nominate them for the PV Choice awards? 6. Who dropped out of school because they could not pledge this semester? 7. Who is glad that basketball season is over? 8. What fraternity doesn't seem to cherish being discrete with their pledging process? 9. Who was the Delta at McDonalds that didn't know how to put the movie in the machine? 10. Didn't she know taking it inside defeats the whole purpose? 11. How many people were p@\$sed Sunday when they found out that episode of Flava of Love was a re-cap and not the finale? 12. How many Sigmas frequent Big Yo's? 13. Isn't that a gay club? 14. Speaking of Phi Beta, who is the Zeta that's sleeping with her line sister's boyfriend? 15. Is that how they keep the bond? 16. Since the Pan came to seminar for community service on Monday how many came to actually vote on Tuesday? 17. Would they have come if community service was given out? 18. How many students are really boycotting The Panther? 19. What freshman recorded himself going off on his roommate? How many people are not going home for spring break? 20. What do you think?

This is for **entertainment only**. The questions submitted are not the views of **The Panther**. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 219 MSC or e-mail us at panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at



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